



October 19, 2020

VIA IBFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Communication, File No. SAT-MOD-20200417-00037

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 15, 2020, representatives of Kuiper Systems LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Amazon.com Services LLC (collectively, “Amazon”), spoke by telephone with representatives of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) regarding the above-referenced proceedings. A list of participants is attached.

Amazon expressed appreciation to the Commission for its work to encourage broadband expansion to close the digital divide, and provided an update on recent Project Kuiper developments. Amazon continues to make rapid progress in developing the Kuiper System. Its investment in the initiative is creating new jobs around the United States and allowing the team to build out the constellation ground network, accelerate satellite testing and manufacturing, and deliver an affordable customer terminal for fast, reliable broadband connectivity. The success of Project Kuiper will contribute to U.S. leadership in space through the development of new technologies and capabilities, and provide connectivity to unserved and underserved communities in the United States and around the world.

Amazon also discussed recent efforts by non-geostationary orbit (“NGSO”) fixed-satellite service (“FSS”) operators to modify their constellations. Reasonable application of Commission policies and precedents will provide regulatory stability, promote competition, and encourage continued investment in NGSO FSS constellations such as the Kuiper System. Amazon supports the successful operation of many NGSO FSS systems—safely and in the appropriate processing rounds. Amazon is one of several commenters concerned with recent efforts by NGSO FSS operators to modify their constellations in ways that inhibit competition and make spectrum sharing more difficult unless the modifications are treated as new applications.¹

¹ See, e.g., Petition to Deny and Comments of Kuiper Systems LLC, IBFS File No. SAT-MOD-20200417-00037 (filed July 13, 2020) (“*Third Modification Petition*”); Reply Comments of Kuiper Systems LLC, IBFS File No. SAT-MOD-20200417-00037 (filed Aug. 7, 2020) (“*Third Modification Reply*”).

Amazon emphasized specific concerns regarding space safety risks and degradations to the interference environment created by the modification application (the “Third Modification”) filed by Space Exploration Holdings, LLC (“SpaceX”).² SpaceX has not answered questions on the record about its capability and willingness to avoid orbital overlap with the licensed Kuiper System, despite Amazon’s proposal of two possible solutions to this overlap.³ Unless SpaceX commits to a solution, the Third Modification must be denied to protect the public interest.

Assuming SpaceX can resolve the space safety issues, the significant interference problems introduced by the Third Modification and the impacts to the licensed Kuiper System must be considered by the Commission. Amazon has provided technical showings that demonstrate the increase in the number, duration, and severity of interference events caused by the Third Modification.⁴ The significant impact to the licensed Kuiper System and other NGSO FSS systems justifies treatment of the redesigned SpaceX system as a new application and its inclusion in the NGSO FSS Processing Round initiated on March 24, 2020.⁵ Such treatment would be consistent with Commission precedent and protect the public interest, while still enabling SpaceX to move forward with its newly redesigned constellation.

Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ **Mariah Dodson Shuman**

Mariah Dodson Shuman
Corporate Counsel
Kuiper Systems LLC,
an Amazon subsidiary

² See *Third Modification Petition*; *Third Modification Reply*; Letter from Mariah Dodson Shuman, Corporate Counsel, Kuiper Systems LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC (Aug. 18, 2020); Letter from Mariah Dodson Shuman, Corporate Counsel, Kuiper Systems LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC (Sept. 17, 2020); Letter from Mariah Dodson Shuman, Corporate Counsel, Kuiper Systems LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC (Sept. 24, 2020) (“*Sept. 24 Ex Parte*”).

³ See *Third Modification Petition*, at 12-13.

⁴ See *id.* at 15-28; *Sept. 24 Ex Parte*, at 9-11.

⁵ See *Satellite Policy Branch Information, Cut-Off Established for Additional NGSO FSS Applications or Petitions for Operations in the 10.7-12.7 GHz, 12.75-13.25 GHz, 13.8-14.5 GHz, 17.7-18.6 GHz, 18.8-20.2 GHz, and 27.5-30 GHz Bands*, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 2881 (2020).

Attachment

Commission Attendees	Amazon Attendees
Commissioner Carr Will Adams	Rajeev Badyal Julie Zoller Kalpak Gude Darren Achord Mariah Dodson Shuman